

Message Text

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ACTION NEA-10

INFO OCT-01 AF-10 EUR-12 IO-14 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00
PM-05 H-02 INR-10 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-02
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R 091503Z MAR 78
FM AMEMBASSY CAIRO
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 6466
INFO AMCONSUL ALEXANDRIA
AMEMBASSY AMMAN
USINT BAGHDAD
AMEMBASSY DAMASCUS
AMCONSUL JERUSALEM
AMEMBASSY JIDDA
AMEMBASSY KHARTOUM
AMEMBASSY LONDON
AMEMBASSY MOSCOW
USMISSION SINAI
AMEMBASSY TEL AVIV
USMISSION USUN NEW YORK

UNCLAS CAIRO 07673

E.O. 11652: NA
TAGS: PBOR PDEV EG IS XF US
SUBJECT: RESTON INTERVIEW WITH SADAT

REF: CAIRO 7672

1. MARCH 9 AHAM REPORTS EXTENSIVELY SADAT REMARKS
IN INTERVIEW ACCORDED JAMES RESTON, MUCH OF WHICH DEALT
WITH U.S. MIDDLE EAST ROLE. HIGHLIGHTS FOLLOW:

2. U.S. ROLE. IT "HIGH TIME" FOR PRESIDENT CARTER
DETERMINE WHAT HIS POSITION IS SO "DIPLOMATIC INACTIVITY"
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WILL END. U.S. ROLE SHOULD BE THAT OF PARTNER, NOT
MEDIATOR. CARTER SHOULD APPLY HIS VIEWS ON HUMAN RIGHTS
TO PEACE PROCESS AND ACKNOWLEDGE THAT OCCUPATION OF
TERRITORIES BY FORCE IS INADMISSABLE. CARTER SHOULD TELL
ISRAEL THAT EGYPT TOO HAS SECURITY CONCERNS SINCE U.S.
HAS SUPPLIED ISRAEL WITH HUGE ARSENAL. MIDDLE EAST NOW
LINKED TO U.S. WITH CORDIAL RELATIONS AND THERE IS DEEP

MUTUAL CONFIDENCE INSTEAD OF CONFRONTATIONS OF PAST.

3. ISRAELI "INTRANSIGENCE". HOPE WAS ATHERTON WOULD PRODUCE CHANGE IN BEGIN BEFORE LATTER'S DEPARTURE FOR WASHINGTON, BUT IT CLEAR ATHERTON MISSION MADE NO PROGRESS. BEGIN REJECTED SADAT POINT OF VIEW AND SADAT WILL FURNISH BEGIN WITH ANSWER IN FEW DAYS. BEGIN DECEIVING ISRAELI PUBLIC ON EGYPT'S STAND ON SINAI PASSES AND SETTLEMENTS. GREAT CHANCE FOR PEACE ABOUT TO BE LOST FOR LACK OF ISRAELI RESPONSE. IT SEEMS ISRAEL HAS NOT UNDERSTOOD THAT EGYPT ALONE IN ARAB WORLD CAN DECIDE ON WAR OR PEACE.

4. STATUS OF NEGOTIATIONS. SADAT'S MORALE WAS RAISED BY HIS MEETINGS WITH PRESIDENT CARTER. THREE MAIN POINTS FIGURED IN DISCUSSIONS: ON OCCUPIED TERRITORIES, TWO PRESIDENTS DID NOT DIFFER; THEY SPENT MANY HOURS DISCUSSING NATURE OF PEACE AND CARTER NOTED BEGIN WANTS NORMAL RELATIONS. SADAT AT NO POINT SAID THAT ISRAEL MUST WITHDRAW BEFORE ALL MATTERS SETTLED. RATHER, IT MUST DECLARE ITS READINESS RETURN OCCUPIED TERRITORIES AND RECOGNIZE EACH SIDE HAS RIGHT TO DISCUSS QUESTION OF SECURITY. "ONLY SPECIFIC RECOMMENDATIONS BY PRESIDENT CARTER, WHICH ISRAEL CANNOT AFFORD TO IGNORE, CAN CHANGE BEGIN ATTITUDE." U.S. IS ISRAELI LIFELINE. PRESS DID NOT ELABORATE ON THIRD POINT DISCUSSED WITH CARTER, UNCLASSIFIED

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PALESTINIAN ISSUE. EILTS

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